Budget deficit hits record; jobless claims surge

Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's financial picture grew darker Thursday, a day marked by breathtaking numbers: a quarter-trillion-dollar budget deficit for a single month and projections of up to $1 trillion for a year, a half-million new applications for unemployment benefits and a 900-point swing on Wall Street.

There was some good news, with the stock market rallying from near its lows for the year to its third-biggest point gain ever. But analysts predicted that the steady drumbeat of gloomy statistics would only get worse in coming months as the country endures what could be the worst downturn since the severe 1981-82 recession.

The initial costs of the government's economic bailout efforts sent the U.S. budget deficit for October soaring to a record $237.2 billion, putting it on track to reach the once-unfathomable sum of $1 trillion for the year.

"And as bad as these numbers are, they may look good a year from now because things are going to get much worse," said Sung Won Sohn, an economist at the Smith School of Business at California State University.

In more grim economic news released Thursday, the number of newly laid-off workers applying for jobless benefits last week hit the highest level since the period right after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

As the economy weakens, the government's fiscal health was projected to deteriorate, too, with layoffs cutting into tax revenues and forcing higher payouts for programs such as unemployment benefits and food stamps.

Unemployment, which jumped to a 14-year high of 6.5 percent in October, is now projected to climb above 8 percent. Sohn said that will further erode government tax revenues and push the U.S. into a "full-fledged recession."
I don't think punitive actions should be taken. My thoughts are that punishing them only creates more hostility.
—Angela Kramer
AM President

“My thoughts are that punishing them only creates more hostility.”

When asked specifically what the university is currently doing to make Cal Poly safer and more diverse, members of the panel responded with various ideas for the future, such as possibly including gender-neutral bathrooms in construction projects and revising the current UNCPE element of the university’s general education requirement.

While acknowledging that “incidents like this don’t help,” President Baker stressed the university’s commitment to diversity. He discussed possible plans for a Student Advocacy Office that would address concerns like this in the future. Dean of the College of Agriculture David Wehner spoke of his college’s desire to positively impact the campus.

“I only want to talk about things that I can follow through with,” he said, before stating his plans for diversity training and workshops, as well as a diversity pledge. Still, panel members were hesitant when asked what they could do to prevent a situation like this from happening again.

Vice president of student affairs Cornel Morton spoke of addressing structural and institutional changes that were congruent with the university’s policy of “inclusive excellence.”

“I’m proud of Cal Poly,” Kramer said at the event’s close, “(The incident) doesn’t imply that Cal Poly has failed up until this point, it just means we need to grow.”

Economy

continued from page 1

revenues, which were down 7.3 percent in October from a year ago.

The stream of negative news initially sent Wall Street down sharply, with the Dow Jones industrials briefly trading below 8,000. The markets rebounded with a flurry, though, and closed up almost 833 — the third-largest point gain on record, following the 899-point rise on Oct. 28 and the 936-point surge on Oct. 13.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. reported profits up 10 percent for the third quarter as the company’s renewed focus on low prices attracted financially squeezed shoppers. But the country’s biggest retailer trimmed its outlook because of the troubled global economy.

The Treasury Department said the $237.2 billion deficit for October, the highest ever for a single month, reflected the $115 billion spent last month to purchase stock in eight of the country’s biggest banks, the opening phase in the $700 billion rescue of the financial system passed by Congress on Oct. 3.

It was far bigger than analysts expected, more than four times larger than the October 2007 deficit of $56.8 billion, and more than half the total for all of last year.

The potential $1 trillion deficit reflected not only the massive expenditures from the rescue effort but also an expected second stimulus program and the effect of a steep recession.

The Labor Department reported that the number of new applications for jobless benefits jumped by 32,000 to $16,000 last week. That nearly matched the $17,000 claims reported seven years ago, and it is only the second time since 1992 that claims have topped 500,000.

On Capitol Hill, some of the largest U.S. banks sharing in the $700 billion government bailout tried to assure lawmakers they are using the money to make more loans and help financially strapped homeowners avoid foreclosure.

Executives from JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs Inc., Bank of America and Wells Fargo & Co. told the Senate Banking Committee that none of the $85 billion they have received collectively from the government is being used to pay salaries or bonuses.

Congressional Democrats pushed forward a package to pump $25 billion in emergency loans into U.S. automakers, but Democratic Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut said the package lacked the support to pass.

“I don’t know if a single Republican who’s willing to support the idea, the idea, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. He personally backed the proposal but cautioned against “bringing up a proposition that might fail.”

Dodd appeared to suggest that Congress wait until President-elect Barack Obama is sworn in on Jan. 20 to provide further help to the carmakers.

In the House, five prominent hedge fund managers told lawmakers they support a central exchange to open the murky world of some complex investments partly blamed for the global financial crisis. But they offered differing views on the need for stricter regulation of hedge funds themselves.

A third economic report showed that the U.S. slowdown was also having an effect on trade, with the overall trade imbalance falling by a bigger-than-expected 4.4 percent in September to $56.5 billion, the smallest deficit in 11 months.

Imports plunged by a record amount, reflecting slumping global demand for oil and other foreign products such as cars, which declined to the smallest total in more than four years.

The report showed that the weakness in the U.S. was beginning to spread overseas, depressing U.S. exports, which also fell by a record amount in September.

Trail

continued from page 1

into making them,” he said.

Carlsbad, along with the city’s natural resource manager and the CCCMB designed the trails. “The art and science of trail design is trying to show off the property while protecting its natural resources,” he said. “We try to lay the trails out so that they will be sustainable and easy to maintain.”

Zika said that CCCMB has been building trails for 20 years. “We are not trying to bust out these trails in quickly as we can to get the park open, we are going to take our time and build them right the first time,” he said.

The city has more work days scheduled throughout next year to complete the trail system at Johnson Ranch.

The Johnson Ranch open space is located on South Higuera Road in San Luis Obispo.
WORD ON THE STREET

"Are you excited for the new Bond movie?"

"Yeah, it looks like it is going to be good. The last one was great and I am hoping that this one is going to be better."

-Samantha Bowen

modern language and literature

"I haven't even thought about it. I guess so, I liked the last movie."

-Erin Frier

math alumna and teaching credential program

"I'm really excited for it. I'm excited to see Daniel Craig without his shirt on."

-Olivia Sitton

biology sophomore

"Uhh yeah! Who doesn't want to be like James Bond!"

-Nelson Monteiroso,

computer engineering senior

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRIDGET VELDRI

SC preist: No communion for Obama supporters

Meg Kinnard

A South Carolina Roman Catholic priest has told his parishioners that they should refrain from receiving Holy Communion if they voted for Barack Obama because the Democratic president-elect supports abortion, and supporting him “constitutes material cooperation with intrinsic evil.”

The Rev. Jay Scott Newman said in a letter distributed Sunday to parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Greenville that they are putting their souls at risk if they take Holy Communion before doing penance for their vote.

“Our nation has chosen for its chief executive the most radical pro-abortion politician ever to serve in the United States Senate or to run for president,” Newman wrote, referring to Obama by his full name.

see Priest, page 4
First photos of planets outside solar system

Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

Earth seems to have its first fuzzy photos of alien planets outside our solar system, images captured by two teams of astronomers.

The pictures show four likely planets that appear as specks of white, nearly indecipherable except to the most eagle-eyed experts. All are trillions of miles away — three of them orbiting the same star, and the fourth circling a different star.

None of the four giant gaseous planets are remotely habitable or remotely like Earth. But they raise the possibility of others more hospitable.

“If it’s only a matter of time before ‘we get a dot that’s blue and Earth-like,’ said astronomer Bruce Macintosh of the Lawrence Livermore National Labs He led one of the two teams of photographers.

“It is a step on that road to understand if there are other planets like Earth and potentially life out there,” he said.

Macintosh’s team used two ground-based telescopes, while the second team relied on photos from the 18-year-old Hubble Space Telescope to gather images of the exoplanets — planets that don’t circle our sun. The research from both teams was published in Thursday’s online edition of the journal Science.

In the past 13 years, scientists have discovered more than 300 planets outside our solar system, but they have done so indirectly, by measuring changes in gravity, speed or light around stars.

NASA’s space sciences chief Ed Weiler said the actual photos are important. He compared it to a hunt for elusive elephants: “For years we’ve been hearing the elephants, finding the tracks, seeing the trees knocked down by them, but we’ve never been able to snap a picture. Now we have a picture.”

In a news conference Thursday, Weiler said this fulfills the last of the major goals that NASA had for the Hubble telescope before it launched in 1990: “This is an 1852-year dream come true.”

There are disputes about whether these are the first exoplanet photos. Others have made earlier claims, but those pictures haven’t been confirmed as planets or universally accepted yet.
Absurdity gone haywire

The Bald Soprano opens this weekend

Samantha MacConnell
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly students acting in the absurd piece "The Bald Soprano" will not only discuss human communication, the lack thereof and what could be done to improve it, they will also share real stories about their lives, which will help students relate to them and the show.

The Bald Soprano, presented by Cal Poly theatre and dance department, will premiere tonight at Spanos Theatre at 8 p.m.

"I picked this play knowing I wanted to integrate the stories of the students into the play," said director Al Schnupp.

"The Bald Soprano," a world-renowned play by Eugene Ionesco, was originally written in French. Rather than following a specific storyline, the play is a collage of ideas and words that will try to remind audiences of contemporary American culture.

The play features six characters: The Smiths, a traditional London theatrical world and dance department. The set is equipped with a net, symbols like a martini glass.

"The Bald Soprano" will run Nov. 13-15 and Nov. 20-22. Tickets are $10 for students.

"The Bald Soprano" opens this weekend at 8 p.m. at Spanos Theatre, and the play continues through Nov. 15.

Don't have many opportunities to experience and I think Al (Schnupp) has done some pretty unique things with the show that really make it more accessible to our students," said Tim Dagen, chair of the theatre and dance department. "It's really kind of a unique interactive piece the way they have approached it."

The set is equipped with a network of cables that both protect and keep the characters isolated. Each cable is a kind of stomping ground for strange props and distinctive attire that sheds light on the characters and their existence.

"We have this juxtaposition of a theatrical world and the real world," said Thomas Bernard, assistant professor of costume design in Cal Poly theatre and dance department.

"My favorite thing is the contrast," added Schnupp. "It is fun to go back and forth between the two worlds the heartfelt stories and then the bizarre creepiness of the characters."

The play brings all of the characters together in an environment of pure absurdity where they hold meaningless conversations devoid of logic. Cal Poly's version of the play also shows the characters embracing contemporary American culture and taking part in electronic gadgets, celebrity and the media's sensationalism.

"It's something that our students don't have many opportunities to experience and I think Al (Schnupp) has done some pretty unique things with the show that really make it more accessible to our students," said Tim Dagen, chair of the theatre and dance department. "It's really kind of a unique interactive piece the way they have approached it."

The Bald Soprano is a kind of stomping ground for strange props and distinctive attire that sheds light on the concerns and fears that the characters have.

"The costume designer and director wanted the actors' costumes to be as absurd as the play itself.

"The Bald Soprano" is an absurd piece, so we did absurd things," said Bernard, who designed each costume for "The Bald Soprano" which is his first production at Cal Poly.

The use of words on costumes was a critical starting point for the designer. The decision of the choice of words and their meanings led to an array of bizarre and illogical outfits that fit well into the play.

Costumes range from one that has a No Smoking sign on it, along with other symbols like a martini glass.

One female character has her phone number on her leg to represent the extremes society will go to for advertising and how effective advertising can be. For example, one character covered in wires has a MySpace page on his back and his photo is on the front of his costume.

"I loved working on the costumes so much," said Bernard. "I had a great director who brought collaboration to the project. I think the piece is a tribute to working together and coming together on an idea."
Yes we can have college football playoffs

With the recent election, it seems we can't go anywhere without hearing how there needs to be change in America. Up until election day, the candidates pressed their messages for change in the economy, healthcare, foreign policy, energy independence — even college football. And for many, hearing something new in politics enticed our interest in the candidates again after a long campaign season.

Last Monday night I turned on the television to watch the Washington Redskins take on the Pittsburgh Steelers and wouldn't you know, out popped the two presidential candidates making their cases for change.

McCain talked about steroid use in athletics (too serious of a topic, John, people are trying to relax and enjoy a game), while Obama opted to discuss the ridiculous Bowl Championship Series system (I don't think anyone expects to hear this from Obama, but they liked it).

Obama has promised a lot of things, but his recent comment during a "Monday Night Football" halftime interview with Chris Berman before election day, laid out a plan for change, both conservatives and liberals can unite on changing how it's decided which teams play in the national championship game in college football.

"I think it is about time we had playoffs in college football. I'm fed up with those computer rankings," Obama said in the interview. "Get eight teams — the top eight teams — right at the end. You get a playoff. Decide a national champion.

For many of us college football fans and voters, it was music to our ears. If there is anything that can passt the test of board with blue states, it's the idea of substituting bowl games with play-offs.

The night really would have been historic.

On election day, USC Trojans head coach Pete Carroll also expressed his long known desire against his opponent in states where the economy

Diversity is more than just race

Dictionary.com states that diversity "the state or fact of being diverse; difference; unlikeess." By saying Cal Poly is not a diverse campus because we are 64.7 percent white is an over generalization.

Diversity is more than just skin color. It is different religions, backgrounds, political parties, tastes, views and even where you grew up. There is more to diversity than just having a balance of ethnicities. Ethnicity is just one part of a multi-faceted idea called diversity. If all the ethnicities were balanced, but everyone coming to Cal Poly had the same views on all of the issues facing our world, we wouldn't be a very diverse campus to begin with.

Coming to college is not only to be surrounded by different ethnicities, it is to broaden your views of the world and become educated. This happens by seeing different peoples’ beliefs and opinions, not only seeing different skin colors.

Having a diverse campus challenges your beliefs and thought processes. It allows you to change them, or form new beliefs. Iron sharpens iron, and I want people with diverse beliefs and opinions surrounding me on this campus, not just racial diversity. The best way to do that is to bring the best and the brightest from all over and put us all in one place to see how we can learn from each other.

Suss Condon
Kinesiology sophomore

Conservative columnists doesn’t get it

I'd like to know how a noose is a symbol of death, as Ian Nachreiner claims. Such a headline is far more vile than the taunts that have been directed at him, which he would no doubt dismiss as unproductive or positive discussion.

Ian, a noose is a symbol of death, and in the context of this flag, a de­

erate flag, of arbitrary death dealt to hundreds of African-American innocents. What is the "differing point of view" being expressed by such a display, Ian?

I wish you had been a little more specific about that. With your column, you are living up to the stereotype of the conservative who just doesn't get it. I can only hope that your fellow conserva­tives have learned more from this incident than you have.

Johanna Rubba
English associate professor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Diversity is more than just race

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40 Rope fiber
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46 Pulitzer-winning writer Sheehan and others
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10 Inventing the plane of
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18 Game in which players barely bet?
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21 Monitors
22 "I don't know the answer to . . ."
23 Place
24 Yanks relative
25 Lab subject
26 "Three" One-time M.V.P. of the N.B.A. finals, famously
27 Dig deeply
28 Emphatic response during a drill
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31 Spread
32 "Rats!"
33 A bove ___
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43 Gator rival
44 Real
45 Having a headline
46 Pulitzer-winning writer Sheehan and others
47 Come up with an
With a win, Mustangs are likely in

Jerry Rice’s PCS record of 17 straight games with a scoring reception.

Cal Poly receiver Ramses Barden’s 26-yard touchdown catch Saturday tied both simultaneously when they host Championship Subdivision (then Montana) for the West (tonight) conference title and first (and only) at the Football Division I-A level.

It featured the failure to realize one annual goal, beating UC Davis. But it culminated in another — a playoff appearance, the program’s first (and only) at the Football Championship Subdivision (then Division I-AA) level.

The Mustangs can accomplish both simultaneously when they host the Aggies at 4:05 p.m. Saturday for the Great West Conference title and the Golden Horseshoe Trophy in Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Because the Great West is made up of just five teams, it doesn’t provide an automatic playoff berth, thus requiring the Mustangs to win at least seven games against fully- fledged Division I competition for at-large consideration.

Even though Cal Poly (7-1, 2-0 GWC) is ranked third in the FCS coaches and media polls, its journey to the postseason was in peril when McNerney State canceled the teams’ third-weekend meeting due to Hurricane Ike, leaving the Mustangs with just seven more opportunities to get six additionally necessary victories. They can reach that plateau this weekend.

“This is not a week as a coach where you worry about your guys being ready to play,” Mustangs head coach Rich Ellerson said.

After losing to No. 3 Montana 30-28 Sept. 6, the Mustangs have won six straight by an average of 31.3 points per game.

Prior to last week’s 29-19 loss to Sacramento State, the Aggies (5-5, 2-0 GWC) had won four straight. Cal Poly concludes its regular season at Wisconsin on Nov. 22.

“Clearly, everybody we’re going to play from now on is better than the people we’ve been playing,” Ellerson said. “That margin we look like we’re going to play with will be tested. The biggest challenge I think we have is making sure we’re mentally and emotionally prepared for a game that’ll come down to a single play, because that game may be this week.”

History backs up that claim. Since Ellerson took over in 2001, three of the Mustangs’ four wins in the annual rivalry were by six or fewer points.

Although Cal Poly won 63-28 last year, the Aggies were without injured defensive tackle John Faletoese.

Faletoese, now a senior, Phil Steele’s magazine preseason All-American First Team selection, is one of 16 official candidates for the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the FCS’ best defensive player.

“He’s as good or better than anybody we’ve seen inside,” Ellerson said of the 6-foot-3, 292-pounder who’s blocked nine kicks in his career. “He’s as slippery as can be.

“They have a little bit of a swag,” Ellerson added of the Aggies, who are No. 5 in the FCS against the run, with an allowance of just 74.9 yards per game. “They expect that the balls not going to move.”

Last week, the Mustangs shuffled their line after sophomore center Jason Cox and senior left tackle Stephen Field left the prior week’s game with sprained left knees.

Cox isn’t expected to play Saturday but Field, Ellerson said.

After likely being eliminated from playoff contention, the Aggies are in something of a recovery mode themselves.

“What happened this last week was a great wake-up call for our kids,” Aggies head coach Bob Biggs said. “We fully expect them to play with a lot more intensity this week.”

UC Davis has had its scout team mimicking Cal Poly’s triple option for two weeks, Biggs said.

But Cal Poly’s speed to the perimeter can “kind of eliminate the d-linemen from making too much contact,” Mustangs senior running back Ryan Mole said. “It’s almost impossible to stop if we stop our assignments right.”

Aggies sophomore quarterback Greg Denham, meanwhile, is fifth in the FCS in passing yards per game, at 301.3.

After allowing five first-half touchdowns to Southern Utah on Oct. 25, the Mustangs have surrendered just 20 points over the past 10 quarters.

“Last night-and-day,” Cal Poly senior defensive end Sean Lawyer said. “We were trying to play a complete game, find an identity and make sure we stayed with our assignments.”

The thought of the postseason is enticing, but shouldn’t be a distraction, Lawyer said.

“We just try to stay grounded,” he explained. “Obviously, we know the (importance), but none of that’s going to help us on the field. The (playoff selections) are out of our hands, but if we win this weekend, we’ll be in a good situation.”

Mole took it a step further.

“We have to win this game to make the playoffs,” Mole said. “So for us, the playoffs are already starting.”

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring communities. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

The courtesy photo accompanying a Cal Poly wrestling preview in Thursday’s Mustang Daily was of Matt Monteiro, who graduated from Cal Poly and is no longer on the team. The courtesy photo was intended by its provider and the Mustang Daily to be of Chase Parks, who Monteiro was incorrectly identified as in the caption.

SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Monday, November 10, 2008